

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a full and timely response to the Office action dated August 02, 2006. Claims 1-2 and 6-8 have been amended, claims 5 and 9 have been cancelled, and new independent claim 10 and claims 11-16 dependent thereon have been introduced. No new material has been added. Reconsideration of all rejections is respectfully requested.

1. Claim objections

Claim 9 has been cancelled without disclaimer of any kind regarding the merits of claim 9 as filed.

2. Claim rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abramson (5,838,975). Claims 3-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson in view of Robinson (5,768,591).

The primary reference Abramson is a very different disclosure from that of the present invention. Abramson runs two programs and compares selected program variables at selected breakpoints. If the variables are equal within certain tolerances, the programs continue to execute. If a difference in the variables exceeds the tolerances, the method reports a fault (Abstract).

On the other hand, the present disclosure sets breakpoints within a program to be tested, with the breakpoints corresponding to events, where each event is a test executed to a peripheral device and has a general processing path when the peripheral device is working well and an error processing path when the peripheral device is out of order (Paragraph [0021] – all present application paragraph references in this response refer to the application as published). The choice of processing path executed is determined by a parameter in an executed script file. When the program is tested, execution continues

until a breakpoint is reached, when a diagnosis code of the breakpoint is compared with a user assigned diagnosis code found in the script file. When the comparison is equal, the parameter is reset by the script file, and the event is executed so that execution of the event is redirected to the error processing path so that all possible processing paths in the event can be checked (Paragraphs [0027] and [0029]-[0030]).

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that one of ordinary skill in the art would consider the variables, setting of the comparison flag, and “displaying a difference” of Abramson respectively anticipating the diagnosis code, resetting the parameter directing flow of execution during the event, and executing the event according to the error processing path. One of several reason for the disagreement is that, even if using the broadest possible interpretation of the claim language, the “error handling” of Abramson occurs as a result of event execution, while the error processing path of the present invention occurs during execution of the event. In other words, the comparison flag of Abramson does not direct the program paths during the event as the parameter claimed in claim 1 of the present invention as filed does, but only causes a report that an error occurred to be produced.

However, the applicant has chosen to amend claims to more distinctly claim the method of the present invention. The event has been more clearly defined and clearly differentiates the current application from known references for at least the above reason. Amendments are fully supported at least by paragraphs [0021], [0023], [0025], [0026], and [0029]-[0031] and no new material has been introduced. Reconsideration of claims 1-4 and 6-8 is respectfully requested.

3. New claims

The applicant respectfully requests consideration of new independent claim 10 and claims 11-16 dependent thereon. New claims are supported at least by paragraphs [0021], [0023], [0025], [0026], and [0029]-[0031] and no new material has been introduced.

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Sincerely yours,

Winston Hsu

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